## 15 Words 15c & Farmer Classified Ads & Phone 1208



kissed me."

Walter Stone laughed heartily. "But I do take a great deal of interest in anything that interests you."

Louise slipped lithely from the porch rail and swung up on the broad arm

of his chair, snuggling against him im-petuously. "I know you do, uncle. I just love you! I'll stop teasing."

"I surrender. I'm a pretty fair sol-fier at long range, but this"—and his

arm went round her affectionately— "this is utter defeat. I strike my col-ers. Then, you always give in so gracefully."

"To you, perhaps, Uncle Walter. But I haven't given in this time. I'm just as interested as ever."

"And you think they are the men we saw out on the Mojave by the wa-ter tank?"

"Oh, I knew it! They remembered the rose. They spoke of it right away, before I did."

"Yes, Louise, And you remember, too, that they were arrested at Barstow—for murder, the conductor said?"
"That's just it! The boy Collie says the tremp Overland Red didn't kill the men. He was trying to save him

and gave him water. If you could only

ear what the boy says about it"-

"My heart, my service and my fu-ture are at your feet, Senorita Louise,

The boy Coilie, half dreaming in the sufficiating heat of the place, started to his teet as the door swing open. He had heard horses coming. They had stopped. He could hardly realize that the sunlight was swimming through the close dusk of the place. But the girl of Moonstone canyon, reining Boyar round, was real, and she smiled and nodded a greeting.

"This is Mr. Stone, my uncle," she said. "He wants to talk with you."

With a glance that noted each unlovely detail of the place, the broken

ovely detail of the place, the broken ron bed, the cracked pitcher and the unspeakable blankets, Louise touched

Collie rubbed his eyes, blinking in the sun as he stood gazing after her. Walter Stone, standing near the door-way, noted the lad's clear, healthy skin,

dark eyes. He felt an instant sympa-

thy for the boy, a sympathy that he masked with a businesslike brusque-

"Come outside. It's vile in there."
Stone led his pony to the north side

Away to the west he saw the hazy peaks. A lake of burning air pulsed above the flat, hot floor of the valley. Over there lay the hills and the shade

"She brung you?" queried the boy.
"Tos. I have seen Tenlow, the sheriff. Heels willing to let you go at my
request. What do you intend doing

"I don' know. Find Red, I grass."

"Oh, stick it out with Red. They'll

e after him sure now. Red's my pal."
"What has he done to get the police

"Uhuh. Them guys out on the Mo-

jave; but, say, are you workin' me to get next to Red and get him pinched

"No. You don't have to answer me.

This man Red is nothing to me one

way or the other. He took Miss La-charme's pony, but she has overlooked

that. I thought perhaps you might

care to explain your position. Perhaps

w that you are free?"

Walter Stone nodded.

"Nothin'. It's the bunch."

her pony and was gone.

"Yes, sir."

ter. I'm a pretty fair sol-

e're a stranger here. I should go on as you have sent help," said

"Mebby I better. I'll help get him the hill and in the shade. Then I'll test it for the doc. If I don't come set after that," be said slowly flush-ing, "it ain't because I'm scared of sything I done."

Far down in the valley Boyar's resting sides glistened in the sun. I sam was raised in a gog tre of fare-tell as the tramp strong the pony to-ard the town. Much to her surprise, sides found herself waving a vigor-as aften to the distant figure. The tramp Overland, realising that he deputy was hedly injured, told the mt person he met about the accident. Avising him to get help at once for the mety. Then he tramed the pony toward the foothills. In a clump of reasewood he dismounted and, leaving the rains hanging to the saddle out, street Black Boyar on the fank. In lorge leaped toward the Moontons trail. The tramp disappeared in he brush.

Louise Lacharms, more beautiful than reces, strolled across the vine aladowed purch of the hig ranch house and ant on the porch rail opposite her sincle. His clear him eyes twinkled approval as he gased at her.

Walter Blone was fifty, but the fifty of the hard riding optimist of the great outdoors. The smooth tan of his charles confused oddly with the silver of his close carried by the He appeared as a young man prematurely gray.

"How is Beyart" he asked, smiling a little as Louise, sitting sideways on the porch rail, awang her foot back and forth quickly.

low chout this boy, the tramp boy

to stayed and helped the doc-test in the buggy and rode so town. Mr. Tunlow was an and the boy had to go to

n't say sa." And Louise tilted

The gray silk cled ankle finshed back and forth. "Beally, Uncle Waiter you could have done something for the boy without making me say that I wanted you to. You're always doing something nice—helping people that are in treatis. You don't usually have to be

Towre just flathering me, I know; but, uncle, if you had seen the boy lump in front of hir. Tenlow's borse when Dick shot at the tramp and afterward when the boy helped me with Dick and shock-right to him clear to his house-why, you couldn't help out admire him. Then they arrested im-for what? I've a shame! I told im to you when I've a shame! in to run when I saw the doctor's

"Yes, Louise, the boy may be brave and likable enough, but how are we to know what he really is? I don't like to take the risk, I don't like to meddle

Uncle Walter; Bisk! And the risks on used to take when you were a seeing man! Oh, Aunty Eleanor has said me all about your siding bronchos and the Panamint—and lots of things. I won't tell you all, for you'd be flatter-

whole lump today."
"Only for today, Louise?"
"Oh, maybe for tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow; but, uncle, only lest week you said at breakfast that the present system of arrest and im-present mas all wrong. That was because they arrested that editor who was a friend of yours. But now when you have a chance to prove that you

"Did I really may all that, sweet

"New you are quibbling. And does wastness" mean me or what you said t hemistast? Bocause you said the hole damed system," and there were no ladies at the table. Of course that

"Is that straight?"

gazed at his questioner. Finally his gaze shifted to the hills and then back

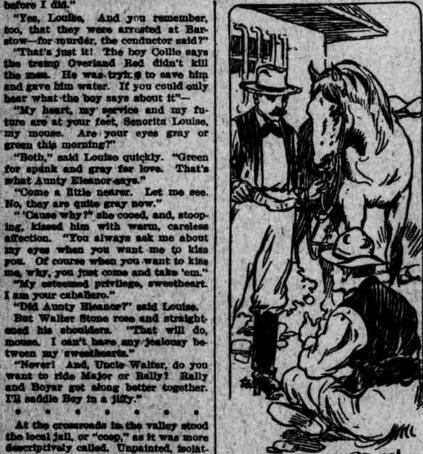
whole thing straight. Red always said that to tell the truth was just as good as lyin', because nobody would believe us anyway. And if a fella gets caught tellin' the truth-why, he's that much to the good."

this time," said Stone. "Miss Lacharme thinks you're honest." "A guy couldn't lie to her!" said the

Then just consider me her repre sentative," said Stone, smiling.

CHAPTER VI. The Girl Who Glanced Back. a kid and didn't care, for he never done nothin' to me. We lived back east over a pawnbroker's on Main street. One day pa come home with a timetable. He sat up most all night readin it. Every time I woke up he was readin' it and talkin' to himself.

"In the mornin', when I was gettin dressed, he come over and says to take the needle he had and stick it through the time table anywhere. I was scare he was goin' to have the jimn I took the needle-it had black thread



GBusch

ed awful loud and queer. Albuquerqu as where the needle went in. couldn't say the name right, but he kept lookin' at it.

Then he went out and was gone all day and all night. When he come back he showed me a whole wad of He got mad and tells me to shut up. "That day we got on a train. I says, Where are we goin'?' and he says to never mind and did I want some pea-

'We kept ridin' and ridin' in the same car and eatin' bananes and san'we come to Albuquerque. You see, that was where the needle went through the time table, and dad said we would get off there. He got awful drunk that night.

"Next day he said he was goin' to quit liquor and make a fresh start. I knowed he wouldn't, 'cause he always said that next mornin'. But I guess he tried to quit. I don't know.

"One night be didn't come back to the room where we was stayin' up-stairs over the saloon. They found him 'way down the track next day all cut to pieces by the train."

The boy paused, reached forward and plucked a withered stem of grass, which he wound round and round his

a lick side the head. Red, he hits the 'If you learn him to hit 'em as hard as that,' I says to Red, 'then it will be all off with me the next time."

'Whenever he feels like it.' I told

goin' nights and mebby ridin' on freights in the daytime if we could.

(To Be Continued.)

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For several tense seconds the lad "I guess I'll have to tell you the

"Well, I shall try and believe you

VOLLIE squatted in the mager shade of the "coop." Walter Stone, dropping the pony's veins, came and sat beside the lad. was something in the older man's presence, an unspoken assurance of comrasceship and sincerity, that annulled the boy's tendency to reticence about himself. He began hesitatingly: "My dad was a drinkin' man. Ma died, and he got worse at it. I was

That was after ma died.



"He's dyin' on his feet," said Red.

"I guess his money was all gone," resumed the boy. "Anyhew, bout a year after, Overland Red comes along. He comes to the saloon where I was stayin'-they give me a job cleanin' out every day—and he got to talkin' a lot of stuff about scenery and livin' the simple life and all that guff. The bartender got to jawin' with him, and I laughed, and the bartender hits me bartender a lick side of his head-and the bartender don't get up right away. Til learn him to hit kids,' said Red.

"'Does he hit you very often?" said

"Red laughed and said to come on I was sick of there, so I run away with Red. We tried it on a freight and got put off. Red had some water in a canteen he swiped. It was lucky for us he did. We kept walkin' and

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